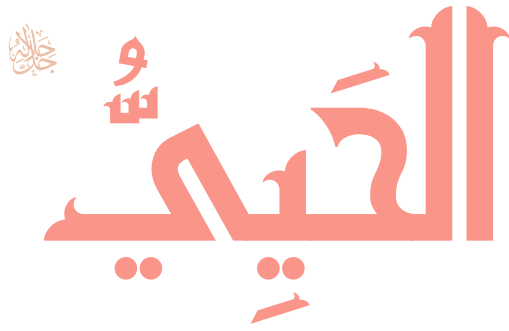


بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



THE ONE WHO HAS HAYAA'

The One Who Is Very Modest



Al-Ḥayyiyy is only mentioned in Hadīth:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

إِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ حَيٌّ كَرِيمٌ، يَسْتَحِي مِنْ عَبْدِهِ إِذَا رَفَعَ
إِلَيْهِ يَدَيْهِ أَنْ يَرُدَّهُمَا صِفْرًا

"Your Rabb (Lord of the Universe) is Modest and Generous, and would never turn the hands of a slave without gain when he raises them to Him (in supplication)."

[Sunan Abī Dāwūd: 1488]

Allah would never return such hands of His slave without gain. He'll always put something in those hands.

Ḥayaa'

Ḥayaa' is generally translated as modesty or shyness. It's described as:

A shrinking of the soul
from foul conduct

Feeling within a person
that prevents him from
doing wrong or exceeding
what is acceptable

Feeling

- apprehensive,
 - uncomfortable, and
 - very uneasy
- about doing something a
person believes is unpleasant,
wrong, or incorrect

out of fear of blame or out of the belief that it's wrong.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Among the words that
people learned from the earlier Prophets are:

إِذَا لَمْ تَسْتَحْيَ فَاصْنَعْ مَا شِئْتَ

'If you do not feel ashamed,
then do whatever you like.'

[Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 3484]

Shyness prevents a person from foul conduct and from doing what is
wrong. When a person doesn't have this, he does/says whatever he
wants.

Ḥayyiyy is one that has ḥayaa'.

When Allah is Al-Ḥayyiyy

His ḥayaa' is not like that of people.

1

He is not stingy.
He is **generous**.

2

He is not harsh and unfair.
Rather, He is **compassionate**
towards His servants.

3

He shows **pardon**
to His servants.

4

He would not reject the istighfār
of His servants. He shows **mercy**
& compassion to them.

He is katheerul ḥayaa' - He continues to give, continues to conceal the sins of His slaves, and continues to spare His servants when He keeps giving them chances so that they realize and turn back to Him.



Allah is not shy of the truth.

وَاللَّهُ لَا يَسْتَحْيِي مِنَ الْحَقِّ

But Allah is not shy of the truth.

[Ahzab: 53]

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَسْتَحْيِي أَنْ يَضْرِبَ مَثَلًا مَّا بَعُوضَةً فَمَا فَوْقَهَا

Indeed, Allah is not timid to present an example -
that of a mosquito or what is smaller than it.

[Baqarah: 26]

What does it mean for us?

We should have ḥayaa' because Allah has ḥayaa' and He likes it.

There is a healthy expression of shame/ḥayaa' and an unhealthy one. We need to learn the proper expression of ḥayaa'. It's more than just clothing or a woman always being hidden.

healthy

For example, a person is respectful to others and refrains from saying rude or foul words because he is too shy to do so. This is praiseworthy.

unhealthy

Out of shame/shyness, a person doesn't recite Qur'ān or pray Salah because others will watch and it's too embarrassing.

Ḥayaa' does not mean that we are too shy to believe in, speak, or live by the truth. The expression of ḥayaa' should be in the right place and in the right way.

Once some people came in the gathering of the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ). One person came forward, found a spot and sat in the front. Another person sat towards the back. A third person came and was too shy, so he left. So the Prophet (ﷺ) said about the third person - When he was too shy (and didn't come forward), then Allah also turned away from him.

We need to have the right shyness - not the shyness that prevents us from doing what is right.

Um Sulaim had to ask the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) an awkward question, but she wanted to know what the truth was, so she started her statement with "Allah does not feel shy to tell the truth."

[Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 6121]

The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

إِنَّ الْحَيَاءَ وَالْعِفَافَ وَالْعِيَّ عِيَّ اللِّسَانِ لَا عِيَّ الْقَلْبِ

Verily, modesty, abstinence, and reticence are reticence of the tongue, not of the heart.

[al-Sunan al-Kubrā: 19162]

In your heart, you're supposed to have the right imān (ie. believing in the truth and being passionate about it.)

Restraint refers restraining of the tongue. Shyness should prevent you from saying what's inappropriate or wrong.

We should have ḥayaa' of Allah.

We should remember that Allah is watching us in whatever state we are in. There is no place or time in which we can hide from Him:

وَمَا تَكُونُ فِي شَأْنٍ وَمَا تَتْلُوا مِنْ قُرْءَانٍ وَلَا تَعْمَلُونَ
مِنْ عَمَلٍ إِلَّا كُنَّا عَلَيْكُمْ شُهُودًا

And, [O Muḥammad], you are not [engaged] in any matter and do not recite any of the Qur'ān and you [people] do not do any deed except that We are witness over you.

[Yunus: 61]

“

Sa'id ibn Yazid reported: He said to the Prophet (ﷺ) "Advise me." The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "I advise you to be modest in front of Allah Almighty as you would be modest in front of a righteous man among your people."

[al-Mu'jam al-Kabīr: 5539]

How would we behave if a righteous person appeared before us? We'd be so polite, careful, kind, deliberate, and guarded.



The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: Be modest before Allah, as is His Right. We said, "O Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), surely we have modesty, all praise is due to Allah!" The Prophet (ﷺ) said: It is not so. Rather, modesty before Allah, as is His Right, is to guard the mind and what runs through it, to guard the stomach and what fills it, and to reflect upon death and trials. Whoever desires the Hereafter, let him abandon the embellishment of worldly life. Whoever does so has been modest before Allah, as is His Right.

[Sunan al-Tirmidhī: 2458]

- Guard your thoughts, eyes, ears, and tongue. What are you doing? Looking at? Listening to? Saying? Have ḥayaa' in all these aspects.
- What are you eating? Where are you getting that from? How much are you eating? How excessively/greedily are you eating? Did you even thank Allah?

Keep calling upon Allah.

Allah definitely responds to His Slaves, so we should always ask Him and call upon Him. Even if we aren't given what we are asking for or if there is some delay, we should always maintain a good supposition of Allah as Allah decides what is best for us and when something is better for us, even if we may not perceive it as such. If we are remembering Allah, talking to Him & making du'ā' then we are worshipping Him, and that is in itself an honor and source of reward.

Never hesitate to call upon Him. Never stop calling upon Him. Be hopeful – He is Al-Ḥayy, the One who is shy, the One who is Modest, the One who is Ever Generous and Ever Compassionate.